

## Teaching Suggestions: Geology Activity #6

### The Ranger Game

#### Concepts and Vocabulary:

Review previous concepts and vocabulary (your choice).

#### If You are Taking the Virtual Hike

This activity contains only one interaction. Students are asked to play ranger by moving a photograph on the screen to connect to a description of that image, as if they are pointing out and describing something they see on the trail to a visitor. Only students who use the Internet Explorer browser will see this interaction. Students using other browsers will see a non-interactive page with the same information and are asked to describe parts of the trail to a friend, classmate, or family member.

Students have two tries to answer correctly. After a first incorrect answer, they can rearrange the photographs by moving them to different descriptions until they correctly position them and then click the Submit button.

#### If You are Visiting the Park and Hiking the Trail

##### Materials:

Use the natural props along and above the trail such as rocks, cliff walls, lichen, and moss.

##### Site:

Anywhere along Mirror Lake Trail while hiking; see the Mirror Lake Trail map.

##### Time:

20 minutes or more

##### Activity:

Tell students that they will have an opportunity to be rangers during this next activity, the Ranger Game. They will each have a chance to share information about things along the trail.

Have students form a single-file line with you in the lead. Have the first person in line come up and walk next to you. Have the others continue walking in a single-file line a short distance behind, so they can't hear you. Tell the first person something to share with the rest of the group. Have the ranger stop at the side of the trail and repeat the same information out loud like a broken record to each student as they walk by. The ranger takes the end of the line after the last student has passed by. Continue the activity until each student has had a chance to be a ranger. Periodically stop the activity and do a check for accuracy with students in the back of the line to make sure your "rangers" are giving out accurate information.

This activity is good for reviewing concepts covered so far, and it keeps students moving up the trail. Be creative and have fun. You could have a ranger say, "feel this lichen; it can break down granite." Have a ranger hold something and say, "check out this quartz and biotite mica, two of the minerals in Yosemite granite." Have a ranger point at something up high on a cliff wall and say, "this boulder came from that cliff way up there," etc. You could also have successive rangers build on what was shared by the previous ranger. The game should be done quickly and it is more effective if you get excited when you tell each ranger what to say and use exclamations they can relate to. For example: ranger #1: "Look at this huge rock"; ranger #2: "This is granite"; ranger #3: "Granite has 4 minerals"; ranger #4: "Check out this quartz and biotite mica"; etc.